

MINUTES
GOVERNOR'S P-20 COUNCIL
General Meeting
Wednesday, October 12, 2005
12:30 p.m.

Location: 1700 W. Washington
2nd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, Az 85007

Members Present: Dr. Rufus Glasper, Cathleen Barton, Mark Bryce, Ernie Calderon, Susan Carlson, Dr. Michael Crow, David Curd, Dr. Matthew Diethelm, Gregory Donovan, Bill Estes, Dr. Roy Flores, Dr. Sybil Francis, Vivian Gonzales, Bob Hagen, Dr. John Haeger, Dr. Karen Butterfield for Superintendent Tom Horne, Dr. Peter Likins, Dr. Laura Palmer Noone, Dean Phillips, Kristen Rex, Cindy Rudrud, Dr. Jim Zaharis, Jack Swonson, Lynda French, Cathy McKee, Dr. Douglas Olesen, Senator Toni Hellon (ex-officio) and Representative Laura Knaperek (ex-officio).

Members Absent: Mayor Phil Gordon, Robert Cassa, Dr. Angel Cabrera, Senator Harry Mitchell (ex-officio) and Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (ex-officio).

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Dr. Rufus Glasper called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and welcomed the members of the P-20 Council. Dr. Glasper introduced the newest members to the Council: Mr. Jack Swonson of USAA; Dr. Jim Zaharis of Greater Phoenix Leadership; and Lynda French, a Mohave Community College Governing Board Member, and welcomed each of them to the Council. Dr. Glasper indicated that the focus of this meeting is to bring information to the Council on the work being done by leading committees, organizations and state agencies relating to educational and training issues. The primary focus of the meeting would be P-12 education initiatives. At future meetings, information will be presented on post-secondary initiatives. These presentations will help the Council form a foundation for the future work they will be doing.

2. Presentation and Discussion – Governor's Committee for Teacher Quality and Support.

Dr. John Haeger provided the Council with a brief update on the work currently being undertaken by the Governor's Committee for Teacher Quality and Support. The Committee, established by Governor Napolitano in May of 2005, is charged to develop and recommend policies to push the K-12 system forward. The 20-member committee

consists of teachers, members of the business community and representatives of public and private sector teaching colleges.

Among its tasks, the committee is working to impact student learning through the following areas: develop a teacher training delivery system to insure uniform access to high quality professional development; identify opportunities and obstacles in recruiting good students to be teachers; conduct a survey of Arizona's teachers to find common working condition impediments; and identify pay gaps across counties and districts. The Committee will have recommendations for discussion by the end of this year.

3. Presentation and Discussion – Arizona Business & Education Coalition.

Susan Carlson provided the Council with an update on the Arizona Business & Education Coalition (ABEC), which was founded by key business and education leaders following the passage of Proposition 301 and based on the belief that strong schools in Arizona are a key element of strong economic development and that the surest way to school reform is through dialogue, finding common ground, and advocating together to improve Arizona's schools. Susan updated the Council on two key projects being conducted by ABEC: (1) community engagement on high school reform and (2) the Arizona Academic Scholars program. The goal of the Community Engagement on high school reform is to generate public awareness, clarify the values held by Arizona around high school, and move communities closer to readiness for high school reform. Susan provided a brief overview of common trends and regional differences.

The Arizona Academic Scholars Program: the Arizona Academic Scholars program is a community based incentive program targeted at the middle 50% of Arizona high school students to motivate them to complete an academically enriched high school course of study. Last year four school districts piloted this program and this year an additional three school districts will be implementing the Arizona Academic Scholars program. A brief discussion followed on how to define course rigor, if and how courses are aligned, the lack of an aggressive senior year, and how the scholars program can be most effective in Arizona.

4. Presentation and Discussion – Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education.

Dr. David Curd, a member of the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education, updated the Council on the initiatives of the Commission, whose mission is to expand access and increase success in postsecondary education for Arizona citizens. Statutory authority for the ACPE is found in Article 7, Sections 15-1851 through 15-1879 of the Arizona Education Code. The ACPE membership is comprised of 17 Commissioners; fourteen appointed by the Governor. The Commissioners represent private post-secondary institutions, community colleges, the three state universities, career/technical schools, the K-12 educational sector, and the general public.

The Commission oversees the Arizona Family College Savings Program; administers \$3.3 million in state grants for low-income students; serves as a forum for private and public postsecondary education to dialogue and collaborate on solutions and opportunities to assist students; and coordinates an annual statewide College Goal Sunday. In the past, over 3,600 students and parents have completed the FAFSA at this event, which is the critical first step for financial aid. The Commission has also identified and introduced strategies to increase statewide college access such as the Leadership for Learning Academies and College Summit.

5. Presentation and Discussion – Arizona Department of Education.

Dr. Karen Butterfield, Associate Superintendent of Academic Achievement, provided the Council with an update on the Arizona Department of Education regarding the mission and function; funding; statutory requirements; and a brief overview of major initiatives. Dr. Butterfield distributed an organizational chart of the Department, as well as Superintendent Horne's strategic goals for 2005.

Dr. Butterfield also discussed current initiatives of the Department, which include:

- State Tutoring Program;
- Your Study Guide: personalized guides to provide student support based upon academic needs;
- AIMS Intervention/Dropout Prevention Program;
- IDEAL;
- Arizona High School Renewal & Improvement Initiative (AZHSRI):

Brief discussion ensued from the Council on the issues surrounding the AIMS, including the rigor of the test, alignment of the test with college entrance requirements, and percentage of students who will pass the exam. Dr. Butterfield emphasized that the AIMS test was a 10th grade proficiency test and NOT a 12th grade proficiency test.

6. Presentation and Discussion: State Board of Education

Dr. Matthew Diethelm, President of the State Board of Education, provided the Council with a brief update of the membership, role and responsibilities of the Board. Under A.R.S. § 15-203, the Board of Education is charged to:

- Exercise general supervision over and regulate the conduct of the public school system.
- Supervise and Control Teacher Certification Requirements
- Prescribe Minimum Course of Study (eg Graduation Requirements)
- Establish Student Assessment System (AIMS)
- Oversight of School Accountability System
- Other Independent Education Policy Initiatives

7. Presentation & Discussion: Arizona State Board on School Readiness.

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled for a future meeting.

8. Update & Discussion: Alignment Project Committee

Debra Raeder presented the update on the Alignment Project Committee meeting held on September 27th. The committee received information from Steve Bella on the process being used to accomplish these goals of the alignment project focusing on the existing research within Arizona that identified the five-targeted Industries:

Biotechnology/Biosciences and Life Sciences; Construction, High Technology (specifically advanced manufacturing, aerospace, semiconductors and information technology); Transportation; and Tourism.

To date, Public Works is working to identify key occupations within the five-targeted industries, as well as to identify, using Onet, Workkeys, Careernet and employer input, the occupational skills and educational knowledge needed for the occupations within these targeted industries, which is Phase I of the project. The next phase includes looking at Arizona's graduation requirements, college admission requirements, assessment and performance indicators such as AIMS, ACT, NAEP, as well as high school standards to find potential gaps in aligning high schools with college and career readiness.

Darcy Renfro and Debra Raeder answered questions from the Council regarding the study and clarifying how the five targeted clusters were identified; the importance of identifying common work skills and education requirements needed across the clusters to meet these job needs; ensuring that these are the job needs and education requirements for Arizona businesses; and comparing current high school education requirements to these identified skills and education requirements, as well as college entrance requirements.

9. Update and Discussion: Adolescent Literacy

Debra Raeder presented a brief update on the Adolescent Literacy Committee meeting held on September 27. Present at the Committee meeting was Elizabeth Schneider and Dr. Rafael Keller from the Alliance for Excellent Education. The Alliance is working, using the 15 elements articulated in *Reading Next* as a framework to review student performance, survey existing state and district policy levers that might have an impact on each of these elements, create an inventory of additional resources in the state for adolescent literacy, and help build awareness and understanding of the issue statewide. The Alliance continues to solicit input and information from key stakeholders as they prepare their analysis for the final report. There were no questions from the Council.

10. Update and Discussion: Access to Higher Education

Darcy Renfro provided a brief update of the Access to higher Education's first Committee meeting, which met on September 27th. Darcy indicated that to frame the

discussions for the issues currently facing the Committee, the Governor had provided some Guiding Principles, which she distributed to the Council.

Regent Ernie Calderon updated the Council on where the JCC was at on these issues. Regent Calderon indicated that the JCC has approved four recommendations to move forward for comments from the community colleges and university presidents, members of the district governing boards and the Arizona Board of Regents, which include:

- Increase transfer credits for select program: the JCC recommends expanding the numbers of baccalaureate programs for which 65-90 hours of transfer credit is possible and applicable from community colleges to designated unique programs.
- Increase the number and scope institutional partnerships: the JCC recommends the increase in the number of university-community college institutional partnerships and expansion of these partnerships to include joint appointment of faculty; joint admission of qualified students; shared/joint advising services; and shared facilities and dedicated space.
- Establish Joint Funding Models: the JCC recommends that collaboratively, the community colleges and universities focus on joint funding models to assure that necessary dollars are available for both sides of the partnership.
- Expand Arizona University System Campuses and Statewide Programs: the JCC supports the Arizona University System's expansion of branch campuses and statewide offerings such as NAU to open branch or regional campuses where there is an identified need; ASU expanding their branch campuses; and UA in developing UA South.

The JCC continues to work to reach consensus on two additional issues:

- Allow and fund certain baccalaureate degrees at community colleges, and
- authorize community colleges to explore becoming a four year college.

Representative Knaperek, who serves as House Chair of the Higher Education Committee, briefly updated the Council on the roundtables she and Senator Gray, Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, have been conducting around the state. The roundtables have focused on the issues surrounding access to higher education, including accessibility, affordability, accountability, funding, articulation, as well as the issue of four-year baccalaureates being offered by community colleges. The last of these roundtables will be held later in the month and a report will be prepared for the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate by the end of this year.

11. Update and Discussion: Graduation Rate Project Committee

Dr. Sybil Francis, Chair of the Graduation Rate Project Committee presented an update to the Council on the committee meeting held on October 6th. The Committee discussed two agenda items: the National Governor's Association Initiative (Compact) and the Center for the Future of Arizona *GRAD Initiative*.

The National Governor's Association compact, signed by Governor Napolitano, as well as all of the nation's governors, works to:

- implement a standard definition of high school graduation rate built on four year adjusted cohort
- Build state's data system and capacity
- Develop additional indicators as needed for richer understanding of outcomes
- Develop public understanding about the need for good graduation and dropout rates
- Build consensus among business, education, and community organizations

The Committee is seeking clarification on the English language learner (ELL) students provision of NGA compact. In the future, the Committee will further explore the state's data systems and capacity and consider ways to improve linkages of data systems across educational sectors.

The Center for the Future of Arizona is leading a committee of business, education, public policy, non-profits groups to consider setting a graduation goal for Arizona that can provide focus and galvanize action. The Center's Committee has adopted an what they believe is an ambitious and achievable goal for improving Arizona's high school graduation rate: Increase Arizona high school graduation rates 12% by 2012; and Arizona's graduation rate will rise to the top ten nationally by 2020.

This goal has already been endorsed by the Greater Phoenix Leadership, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Rodel Foundation, Arizona Business & Education Coalition, Communities in Schools, and other. Dr. Sybil distributed information to the Council to distribute to the groups they represent for possible endorsement of this goal.

12. Call to the Public

Bob Rosenberg of ESEC addressed the Council regarding S.B. 1181. Anna Cicero from the Arizona School Counselor's Association also addressed the Council, and thanked them for the exciting work they are doing.

13. Announcements and Adjournment

Dr. Glasper announced that the next meeting of the Council will be on November 18th at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Dr. Glasper adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.